Reopening of Bengal paper Mills and Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Limited

1544. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to take appropriate steps in consultation with the West Bengal Government to re-open the long-closed factories namely, Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj and Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Limited at Asansol; and

(b) if so, what is the outline of the proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In so far as Bengal Paper Mills is concerned, the Financial Institutions, in consultation with the Government of West Bengal and the Central Government, are engaged in working out modalities for the re-opening of the mills. The Institutions have sought the assistance of Government of West Bengal in locating a suitable entrepreneur who can run the mills.

In so far as Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works is concerned, lockout at the factory was declared in May, 1980. The lockout was lifted on 1.9.82 and production resumed from November, 1982. However, after sometime, operation came to a halt.

A working group had been set up consisting of representatives of IRBI, banks and Government of West Bengal to look into the possibility of formulating a rehabilitation plan for the company and also for locating suitable entrepreneur. Various parties have been contacted for the takeover of the unit but so far no firm offer has been received.

In May, 1987, Hindustan Pilkington Glass Works Ltd. Workmen's Union addressed a letter requesting for reopening of the factory.

The unit has got huge accumulated losses of the order of Rs. 16.00 crores against the paid up capital of Rs. 2.12 crores and reserves of Rs. 0.51 crores. The outstandings of Banks and financial institutions are of the order of Rs. 10.00 crores. The lead bank has instituted legal proceedings and an official liquidator has been appointed.

Having regard to all the circumstances, Government do not consider it appropriate to intervene in these proceedings.

Shortage of vital drugs

1545. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any livelihood of shortage of vital drugs due to the irregular working of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Pollution by oil wells

1546. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some areas in Moran and Sibsagar in Assam are being polluted by the oil wells and oil drilling works;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to prevent air, water and soil pollution in those areas; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to compensate the affected people of the areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) There have been a few in-